

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05733 202240Z

12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /096 W

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R 202216Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0364

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5733

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, SHUM

SUBJECT: CARDINAL'S SERMON ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

REF: SANTIAGO 5619

1. SUMMARY. CONTRARY TO CARDINAL'S COMMENT TO US PRIVATELY (REFTEL), HIS SERMON DURING TRADITIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY TE DEUM SEPT 18 CONTAINED NO HARD-HITTING PROD TO GOC ON HUMAN RIGHTS. SERMON WAS COUCHED IN GENERALITIES SUBJECT TO INTERPRETATION AS AUDITOR SAW FIT. END SUMMARY.

2. CARDINAL SILVA STRESSED NECESSITY TO REESTABLISH CONSENSUS UPON WHICH CHILE WAS FOUNDED IN 1810. DESCRIBING NATURE OF COLLECTIVE CHILEAN SPIRIT, CARDINAL UNDERLINED CHILEAN'S DEDICATION TO LIBERTY AGAINST ALL FORMS OF OPPRESSION AND TO RULE OF LAW OVER ALL FORMS OF ANARCHY AND ARBITRARINESS. "PERSECUTION AND POLITICAL VENGEANCE ARE FOREIGN TO THE NATIONAL SOUL."

3. SILVA CITED CHURCH'S OPPOSITION TO BOTH "ATHEISTIC SOCIALISM" AND "UNRESTRAINED (MANCHESTERIAN) LIBERALISM," NOTING CHURCH'S ROLE IS TO ADVOCATE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD AND THE INVIOABILITY OF HUMAN BEINGS. "THIS MISSION FREQUENTLY PLACES THE CHURCH IN A CERTAIN TENSION OR POLARITY WITH THOSE WHO GOVERN; WHAT IS INVOLVED IS NOT OPPOSITION (TO THOSE WHO GOVERN) BUT AN INDEPENDENT CRITIQUE."

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4. SERMON RECEIVED FAVORABLE EDITORIAL COMMENT IN SANTIAGO PRESS.

5. COMMENT. CARDINAL'S WORDS ARE OPEN TO VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS AND CONSTITUTE CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN CLEAR-CUT DENUNCIATION OF GOC'S POLICIES IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS COMMENTS, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, SPEECHES, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA05733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740265-0995
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740927/aaaaawrv.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SANTIAGO 5619
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARDINAL'S SERMON ON INDEPENDENCE DAY
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CI, (CARDINAL SILVA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005